

REMARKS

By the foregoing amendments, the applicants have corrected a minor formality error in claim 6 and cancelled claims 7-9 without prejudice. This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Appl. No. 10/078,167, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Appl. No. 09/531,265, filed on March 20, 2000.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully request that substantive examination be undertaken as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP



THOMAS A. CAWLEY, JR., Ph.D.

Reg. No. 40944

Tel. No. (703) 905-2144

Fax No. (703) 905-2500

TAC/PAJ/smm
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000